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EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 July 4, 1977

PRIME MINISTER NICOLAU LOBATO
ANSWERS QUESTIONS FROM TRICONTENTAL ,
PUBLISHED BY OSPAAL (NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

We reproduce below a transcript of the English-language answers to questions sent to Fretilin Department of Information and National Security by the Campaign for Independent East Timor in Darwin, on behalf of the Tricontinental Magazine, published by the Executive Secretariat of the Organisation of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL). The questions were sent over the radio to Fretilin on June 6, 1977, and replies received on June 30, 1977. The questions were answer by comrade Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of East Timor and Vice-President of Fretilin. The answers were read by Prime Minister Lobato in Portuguese and then read in English translation by comrade Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security. Comments/corrections in brackets offered by ETNA for clarification.

We reproduce below the questions and the answers as given in English by Minister Fernandes :

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE AGAINST THE INDONESIAN OCCUPATION ?

PRIME MINISTER LOBATO : No doubt (despite?) the brutality of the Indonesian forces' aggression and the military superiority as well, because of the fact of the strong resistance opposed by the Falintil and our people , has broken down the impetus and the morale of the aggressors. This is proved by the heavy casualties we have inflicted to the enemy and the confusion we caused in the enemy units with several of them have refused to fight and therefore had to be replaced. Through the heavy casualties suffered by the enemy, the expansionist Jakarta Government has reinforced with more troops in order to assure the military occupation of our country. The enemy has learned with (through?) its own mistakes and so it is refining its tactics trying by all means to continue the aggression. However, all over the country the resistance is still very strong despite the continuous raids deeply launched by the enemy to the large areas under our forces' control.

QUESTION : HOW ARE THE LIBERATED AREAS ORGANISED ?

PRIME MINISTER LOBATO : Although (despite?) the difficulties in the liberated areas, we are organising culture (??-- imprecisely spoken) to guarantee to our people a safe and stable life, and production, health, education, culture, justice and defence levels, and on the good way to continue the struggle of national resistance and in (on?) the way to consolidate our revolutionary democratic power.

QUESTION : WHAT IMPORTANCE DOES FRETILIN ATTACH TO POLITICAL WORK AS THE SOCIAL CENTRE IN ITS STRUGGLE ?

PRIME MINISTER LOBATO : Always politics is under (in?) command. We don't make war by war. Our armed struggle has a deeply political form and sense. The liberation of our people from the colonialists and imperialists (word indistinct?) and so all kinds of domination and exploitation of man by man.

QUESTION : WHAT IS THE STRATEGY OF IMPERIALISM IN THIS AREA ?

PRIME MINISTER LOBATO : When the imperialists have launched the aggression over our country, they were animated and convinced they would shortly suffocate the struggle of our people, and are still engaged in carrying out a strategy of this decision.

For this reason they have occupied the seaports and airports of our country and are patrolling our air and sea space in order to isolate us from the outside world by blocakde with the purpose of suffocating our resistance by wastage (? word indistinct ?) .Meanwhile, fighting is continuing in our country thanks to our people's determination to resist, principally counting with their own forces and thanks to the existence of the revolutionary vanguagd, the Central Committee of Fretilin,and also thanks to the international militance of the peoples and governments that support us,and the revolutionary people like us who are fighting against the common enemy -- the imperialists.

QUESTION : WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY TOWARDS THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE IN EAST TIMOR ?

PRIME MINISTER LOBATO : We consider excellent the international situation touching our struggle. International solidarity is for us a very importance and necessary external factor for this continuation of the armed struggle for a long time.We appreciate very much the solidarity, fighting imperialist forces ,seriously worsening their internal contradictions. (last part somewhat indistinct).

QUESTION : WHAT ARE THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE STRUGGLE OF FRETILIN/THE FUTURE ?

PRIME MINISTER LOBATO : We are realists. We are aware that our struggle is very hard. However, as our people are firmly determined to fight for their own liberation, trusting on their own forces as already has been shown over 18 months of fierce fighting, and because we trust in the effective support and internationalist militance of the revolutionary governments and peoples and the friendly peoples, also clearly shown along that time, we are sure our resistance will grow day by day and we will win and withdraw the vandal aggressors from our sacrificed country.

THIS INTERVIEW IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION until permission is received from OSPAAAL. It is reproduced here only for personal information. The English-language translation by Minister Fernandes is reproduced as read over the radio with comments/ corrections offered by CIET in brackets. No doubt OSPAAAL will publish a direct translation from the answers in Portuguese by Prime Minister Lobato.

RADIO MAUBERE NEWS 29/6/77 (and as repeated to CIET by Minister Fernandes on 30/6/77)

FOHOREM: The enemy is still shelling with mortars DETO-TOLU but no damage caused.
SUAI: June 3 : Fretilin forces rescued two comrades from the vandal Indonesian concentration camps.They said Indonesian troops still raping women.Indonesian war-ships are still patrolling and shelling continuously the coastal areas from Saui Suai to Betano.
LEBOS: June 6 : Fretilin forces rescued a couple and their three children ,who were in very bad physical condition due to starvation and brutal treatment. They said a lot a captured population dying due to lack of medical care.Mortar fire continually shelling Lebos area.
METINARO: intense shelling of Metinaro and Kaimauk 12/6/77 from Hera and Fatu-Ahi. No damage. On 13/6,enemy advanced over some Fretilin positions at Kaimauk,but repelled with heavy casualties. 13/6 Fretilin also clashed with enemy at Mamgkaka,2 enemy killed ,several wounded. One Fretilin guerrilla died.
AINARO: Captured population forced to do heavy hard work.Women continually raped especially Maria Imaculada and Christine.Great starvation and lack of medical care.Heavy air fraffic around Ainaro. VENILALE :Enemy blocked in village,shelling outskirts.
BAUCAU: 24/6/77: enemy advanced over Fretilin position --but repelled,with 3 enemy dead One Bereta rifle,much ammunition and other material captured. 26/6 1 enemy killed.

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FOURTH FLOOR, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW-2000 Phone 617089 July 5

NEWS FROM RADIO MAUBERE JULY 1 ,1977

LAKLUBAR : 30/4/77 : the enemy attacked a Fretilin position at (name inaudible) . Fretilin repelled the enemy,killing 15 Indonesian soldiers and wounding many.One Fretilin comrade dead,and one wounded.

SOIBADA: 26/6/77 : Falantil patrolling Pualaca ca[illegible] enemy unit : fierce fighting for six hours. 17 Indonesian soldiers killed, several traitors, and many wounded.

BARIKE: 27/6/77 : Fretilin forces at (name inaudible) killed three Indonesian soldiers and wounded many. Two Fretilin comrades died.

DILI: 21/6/77 : Falintil on special duties at Benamaluk (? name difficult to decipher) destroyed one heavy truck full of war material. Two planes heavily bombed Fretilin held areas nearby by no damage was caused.

In the English-lanuguage part of the broadcast Mr Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security ,said many of the captured population are fleeing to Fretilin-controlled areas.

Particularly in BAUCAU, AINARO AND LOSPALOS, the Indonesian soldiers are highly demoralised, refusing to fight, and demanding to be sent home, because of the heavy casualties they have suffered,Mr Fernandes said.

In front of Dili harbour,in the former public building(garden?) is the biggest Indonesian soldiers' cemetry in East Timor, Mr Fernandes said. But the Indonesian military authorities had ordered that all the head-stones on the graves be removed and replaced with new ones, saying that the graves were those of Portuguese colonialists and Timorese, with fictitious names.This was done to mislead visitors ,he said, and to boost the morale of the Indonesian soldiers, although it was insulting those who had ingloriously died in East Timor, as well as their relatives.

BAN ON APRIL FOOLS DAY IN INDONESIAN ...

The Jakarta Information Ministry issued an order to newspapers banning any celebration of April Fools' Day on April 1. The Ministry said the ban was imposed because it might annoy the government and confuse the "elections." !

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA DUE
TO VISIT JAKARTA IN AUGUST

Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda is due to visit Jakarta in August next. Strict security measures are expected to prevent a repetition of the demonstrations which occurred when former Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka visited Jakarata a few years ago.

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 PhoneL: 2 617089 July 5

MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR EAST TIMORESE IN
AUSTRALIA AND PORTUGAL

We reproduce below a summary of some of the messages received from liberated areas in East Timor, through the public radio receiver in the past month. We have not included some which have already been delivered.

To : Maria Carolina, Beira Baixa, R. Porta A B 13,Uniao da Serra,Portugal. Jacinto Costa Ribeiro wants to know if his family is with her. He is well.

To : Fernanda Mouzinho Esteves ,Rua da Junqueira 309,Lisbon 2,Portugal. Bacano is well and wants to know if ~~kixx~~ Fernanda knows where his wife and children are.

To: Abreu and family. Augusto Vaz and family are well and safe with Maubere people.

To: Julio Lemos and family -- his sons are safe,as is Cornelio Esposito.

Etelvino and family OK.

To: Manuel Marquis Pereira : Jose B Rosario is well.

Idalina Saldantos -- Portugal. from Eleonor ,irmaos e sobrinhos. OK. message received.

TO: Alberto Sara e familidia --Portugal . message received .. all well fighting for independence. Aiso(?) Ansor(?) and brothers and sobrinhos

To: Ana Percipe(?) de Araujo Marido (?) e filhos: We're well with Maubere people. The Sturggle continues. Mario Quei,Beba,Manp Cali e Mena and Pai.

To: Joao L Goncalves Melbourne. OK with Maubere people .. Rui and Francisco Goncalves

To: Maria Madalena Exposto -- father Cornelio and family OK with Maubere people..

To: comrade Minister Abilio Araujo ,family, father and mother OK --Almeida

To: Domingos Cerqueira Portugal -- Lita,Mize,Alarico and rest of family OK.

To: Maria Elsa Lemos and Dulimina(?) Soares Portugal : Alexandre Lemos OK with Maubere people.

To: Maria Teresa Soares --Alex Muniz OK with Maubere people

To: Duarte Santa and family : your afiliado Mano-Tassa da Silva OK with Maubere people (?)

To: Fernando Campos and family . Cassinao/Rejo and family safe with Maubere people.

Also note : Maunel da Conceica Ribeiro (?) is OK and well with Maubere people.

These are only a few of those received. The messages are usually longer-- we have for space reasons limited them to the essentials.

ANY EAST TIMORESE WISHING TO ASK ABOUT RELATIONS OR FRIENDS IN EAST TIMOR CAN NOW SEND MESSAGES OVER THE PUBLIC RADIO TRANSCEIVER OPERATING IN DARWIN. SUCH MESSAGES SHOULD BE CLEARLY PRINTED IN ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE OR TETUM AND SENT TO BRIAN MANNING, PO Box 913,Darwin .NT 5794. THEY MAY BE TAPED RECORDED, BUT PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE RECORDED CLEARLY AND NAMES ARE REPEATED TWICE.

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 phone: 617089 July 12,1977

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY JULY 21 , 7.30pm at CIET office, fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney

TOPIC: ACTIVITIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN SECOND HALF OF 1977

CIET has been somewhat snowed under the first half of this year establishing the East Timor News Agency,and centring organisation for the public radio transceiver still operatingin Darwin.

However, in the rest of this year we want to mobilise for actions ,particularly around the following dates :

AUGUST 19 : The Indonesian Consulate is organising a big celebration at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday August 19, to celebrate Indonesian Independence Day. It will be a ball etc.. We want to organise a pciket/leaflet distribution/ demonstration. Although it is at a bad time -- Friday night beginning 7.30pm, we are sure enough will be able to come to make it worthwhile. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO RALLY AT THE SYDNEY TOWN HALL STEPS AT 7pm ON FRIDAY AUGUST 19.

OCTOBER 16: Second anniversary of the murder of five Australian journalists by Indonesian troops at Balibo. We hope AETA and church organisations will take some initiatives. (October 16 is a Sunday).

NOVEMBER 28: Second anniversary of foundation of Democratic Republic of East Timor. Some suitable celebration should be held on this date. (It is a Monday).

DECEMBER 7 : Second anniversary of the fullscale invasion of East Timor by Indonesian troops. A demonstration on this date (it is a Wednesday) is planned. The week is also International Week of Solidarity with the East Timorese people.

WE NEED TO BEGIN ORGANISING AROUND THESE DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OBVIOUSLY ORGANISATION FOR AUGUST 19 MUST BEGIN FROM THIS MEETING.

This also implies greater organisation and publicity on campuses and in workplaces.

To achieve successful actions on these dates, we need your support .

COME ALONG TO THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING ON JULY 21.

Other questions: production of new badge, distribution of new stickers, national East Timor Activists Conference.

Other news: Abilio Araujo informs us that a new long-playing (12") record of Fretilin songs is being pressed in Europe. Supplies should be available shortly.

Also a book by Minister Abilio Araujo has just been published in Portuguese,and is to be published in French and English. We hope to have a copy of the Portuguese edition shortly.From the little we know of it, it is a theoretical work on the problems of revolution in colonial countries,with particular reference to East Timor... Hopefully, we will receive some bulk supplies in Portuguese for Portuguese-language readers.

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CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 Phone : 617089 July 11 1977

NEW CAR STICKERS

The Campaign for Independent East Timor has produced a series of six car stickers (self-adhesive) in a variety of flourescent colours. Each sticker is approx. 3" by 4".

Please order :

1) LET EAST TIMOR SPEAK ! (Nicolson cartoon plus .." Send donations to Let East Timor Speak Fund, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney)

2)EAST TIMOR : INDONESIA'S VIETNAM ? (Photo of Fretilin solider plus words in small type "Read East Timor News,fortnightly from ETNA,232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney)

3) EAST TIMOR FIGHTS ON ! (photo of guerrilla with clenched fist and words "Fretilin controls 80% of East Timor)

4) MURDERED BY SUHARTO (in box: Balibo,East Timor, Oct. 16,1975 (names of five journalists) .Dili ,Dec.8,1975 : Roger East) .Ignored by Fraser .. LEST WE FORGET

5) EAST TIMOR : " INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH! VENCEREMOS !" (photo of President Xavier with clenched fist. Small letters; "Francisco Xavier do Amaral,President of the Democratic Republic of East Timor")

6) INDONESIA : 1965 .,. Suharto massacres over 500,000. EAST TIMOR: 1976-1977 .. Suharto massacres over 50,000. LEST WE FORGET. No aid,travel or trade with Indonesia'

FRETILIN BADGES:

We have a further order of 1,000 Fretilin flag badges now in stock.

PUBLICATIONS : Timor Story by Helen Hill (50c); East Timor Speaks .Speech of Jose Ramos Horta to UN (20c) ; Decolonisation --special report on East Timor (UN Decolonisation Cmmttee -- (30c) ; Aust. Left Review --special interview with Rogerio Lobato (50c). Individual copies only of EAST TIMOR: Indonesia's Vietnam. In English from Fretilin delegation in Maputo (50c) (Sorry,but only have a few -- asked for more to be sent). ALSO 45 rpm. RECORD OF FOHO RAMELAU AND KDADALAK ,Professionally recorded --$1.50 a copy ($1 ea. for orders of 10 plus)

ORDER FORM : to CIET , 4th floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000

FROM :

Please send : _____ copies each of sticker No. _____ (as listed above)

(Cost: less than 10 stickers: 10c. each ; up to 100 stickers : 7c. each ; over 100 stickers : 5 c.each.)

_____ Fretilin flag badges (Cost: 20c. each ; for 20 plus: 15 c each ; over 100 : 12c. each)

and the following books/ records :

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fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617 89 July 12, 1977

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TRANSCRIPT OF ANSWERS BY MINISTER ALARICO FERNANDES
ON PUBLIC RADIO TRANSCEIVER DARWIN, JUNE 19 ,1977

(This has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances)

A tape of ABC "AM" radio program played, with report of Indonesian allegations that 2,000 Fretilin supporters had surrendered in Lospalos area...

BRIAN MANNING: We played that in interests of letting you be informed of what's on the Australian press...

MINISTER FERNANDES: This comment .. I want to stress that nobody surrenders here in East Timor to the vandal Indonesian forces, the corrupt Suharto military clique. But Indonesian troops are all the time trying in vain attempts to capture the civilian population, and concerning this news I am getting more details abd I assure you that nobody surrenders to Indonesia, but Indonesian troops are trying to capture and sometimes capture some people who are concentrated in Indonesian concentration camps, suffering all the worst treatment, brutal treatment, and so on, as the world already knows.

(Question on exact attitude to negotiations...)

AMINISTER FERNANDES: Comrade, the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor, Fretilin, is based in East Timor and are struggling, defending the most deepest aspirations of the people of East Timor, that (is) to (be) free from exploitation, domination and oppression and attain their freedom and national independence. In the outside world, members of Fretilin Central Committee and Ministers of the Democratic Republic of East Timor are working hard in the international arena, and only last year in the U.N. several times the corrupt Jakarta Government has been defeated and Fretilin has won. And negotiations with the corrupt Jakarta Government, never, but the corrupt Jakarta Government has to immediately, obey ,respect the UN General Assembly, Security Council, resolutions, as well as the Non-Aligned Countries resolutions on East Timor issued, that has demanded the immediate, withdrawal of all Indonesian colonial troops from the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

So, we know the heroic people of East Timor are still aware that fighting justly against the exploitation of man by man ,against any foreign domination, that the victory will be certain, because when all the people over the world fought justly in defence of their freedom and sovereignty and national independence, these people have won.

(Question: Is Fretilin prepared to allow international observers of good will to have safe conduct in the major part of the DRET ?) Min. Fernandes: I will refer to Fretilin Central Committee, and send reply at a later date.

(Question: Any sign of cholera in Dili ?) Min. Fernandes: Inside Indonesian territory cholera has been registered, and in West Timor particularly. We have no information about cholera in Dili, I think there is no cholera but great starvation, sickness ,because of shortage of food, medicaments and so on and the last news reaching this Department from Dili, from reliable source, told that Indonesians, even Indonesian troops, are highly starving , they are eating dogs, snakes and so on, and we are very sorry with the population in Dili, that is exactly an Indonesian concentration camp.

(Both CIET Darwin and Minister Fernandes sign off).

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St/ Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 July 12,1977

NEWS FROM RADIO MAUBERE

The following news was broadcast in English, Portuguese and Tetum over Radio Maubere on July 8 :

BAUCAU: Indonesian troops are more and more demoralised because of the heavy casualties they have suffered. The situation in Baucau area is completely under Fretilin control.

BOBONARO : Fretilin control situation in Bobonaro area. In the Indonesian concentration camp, brutality and torture is being stepped up on captured population.

MAUBISSE: On July 1, the enemy tried to pillage coffee beans in Fretilin controlled areas, forcing females of the captured population to march in front of them. But vigilant Fretilin forces attacked, and killed seven Indonesian soldiers and wounded a lot. The rest ran away leaving the dead behind.

BETANO: Indonesian warships are continually and bombing this area of the south coast.

DILI: Last April , an Indonesian, captain of a commando unit, was jailed because he publicly expressed dissatisfaction with Indonesian aggression in East Timor, He regretted that the situation as exists will result in the extermination of the Indonesian soldiers, because even if the fighting goes on for twenty or more years, the Indonesians will never suffocate the resistance of the Maubere people.

The following news was broadcast in English, Portuguese and Tetum over Radio Maubere on July 10 :

BAUCAU: Indonesian planes and helicopters are continually flying over the Baucau area, seeking to discover Fretilin positions. Fretilin forces have high morale, and control the situation.

REMEXIO : On July 4, the enemy tried to take a Fretilin position with an attack from two fronts. However, Fretilin forces repelled the attacks, killing ten Indonesian soldiers and wounding three. The others fled away. In reprisal, the enemy shelled Fretilin positions, with heavy mortar fire.

BOBONARO: The enemy are continuously shelling the Bobonaro area with mortar fire. Planes and helicopters are violating Bobonaro air space.

COVALIMA: Indonesian warships are continually patrolling and shelling coastal areas. In Indonesian concentration camps, tortures and other brutality continues. Shortage of medical supplies and food leading to starvation and death.

AILEU: In the second week of June, a female comrade escaped from the Indonesian concentration camp. She said that the attempt to take Lekidoe on June 7 resulted in heavy Indonesian casualties, including two Indonesian officers. She said the enemy forced captured population from Atsabe, Quelicai, Ermera and Aileu to take part in the attack. Most of them died. The Indonesian officers were angry: they had been told Fretilin would not offer resistance to the attack. They punished the captured female population by forcing them to do heavy work in the ricefields completely naked, in the role of buffaloes.

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EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 July 18

PRESS RELEASE

FRETILIN FORCES INFLICT HEAVY CASUALTIES
ON INDONESIAN FORCES

From January to May 1977, a total of 1,769 Indonesian soldiers were killed in the Bazartete and Likica areas, on the north coast west of Dili, Mr Alarico Fernandes ,Minister of Information and National Security in the Democratic Republic of East Timor , said on July 16 ,in a message to the Campaign for Independent East Timor in Darwin.

The message was picked up on the radio receiver operated by CIET members in Darwin. The message was a repeat of news given over Radio Maubere on July 15.

The news items as read by Mr Fernandes were :

BAZARTETE: From January to May 1977, Fretilin forces killed 492 Indonesian soldiers in this area and wounded a lot. Fretilin forces lost 17 dead and 13 wounded. Much war material was captured , including one 60 mm. mortar and one 50 mm. mortar,as well as much ammunition,including a lot of rocket ammunition. Some medical supplies were also captured.

LIKICA: From January to May 1977,in several engagements, 1,277 Indonesian soldiers were killed and many wounded. Fretilin lost 38 dead and 24 wounded. The enemy has been forced to withdraw from Darolete.

RAILACO: From March 20 to last May , Fretilin forces killed 117 Indonesian soldiers and have recaptured Railaco. Much war material was also captured. Fretilin suffered two dead in very fierce fighting.

LALULARA: On June 16-17, Fretilin killed seven Indonesians when they tried to pillage food. June 28-19 : Lalulara was strongly bombarded.

AILEU: On June 25, the enemy advanced over Lahai from Fatubolu and Balibo (?) .There was bloody fighting and 23 Indonesians were killed.Fretilin lost three killed before enemy retreated.

On June 30, the enemy tried to advance over Fretilin positions at Fatubossa(?) Eight more Indonesian soldiers were killed.Fretilin suffered no casualties.

On July 2, the enemy returned to Aileu (?) .

(NB. Question marks in brackets indicate not sure of spelling or naming of village, due to interference during broadcast.)

The fighting in Bazartete and Likica areas had been reported in earlier broadcasts.In particular, most casualties inflicted occurred in the period from January to March, when the Indonesians launched very big attacks in this area, particularly against Darolete and Railaco. It is unclear from the message received ,whether or not the Indonesians are still in control of Bazartete.

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 July 24,1977

NEWS FROM RADIO MAUBERE 20/7/77

Maubara : from January 1 to February 19,1977 there were several bloody battles. 267 Indonesian soldiers were killed and many wounded. Fretilin lost 6 dead and 3 wounded.

HATOLIA : January 19 to May 31: Fretilin revolutionary forces killed 72 Indonesian soldiers and wounded many. Fretilin lost three wounded. One comrade was rescued from an Indonesian concentration camp. He said the captured population was being tortured and starved.

ERMERA: January 29 to May 31: In fierce fighting, 50 Indonesians were killed Fretilin lost four dead. On April 12 to 15 , there was very strong bombing by Indonesian aircraft.One civilian was killed and one wounded.

TAILACO (may be Cailaco) : From February 12 to March 31 ,Fretilin forces killed 18 Indonesians and wounded many.

LETEFOHO : April 1 to May 31 : In several operations, 26 Indonesians were killed and many wounded. One Fretilin guerrilla died.

AILEU: Fatobossa: July 3 .In a Fretilin offesnive, five Indonesians were killed. Two Fretilin guerrillas died. On July 6 : Indonesians attacked Omorou (?) and Railete.Three Indonesians were killed,and some wounded.Much ammunition was captured. On July 8 : Indonesians tried to take Samatuto ,but were repelled.

NATIONAL EAST TIMOR ACTIVISTS CONFERENCE ,Melbourne, July 23 and 24.

Members of Australia-East Timor Association (Victoria),Campaign for Independent East Timor (Sydney), AETA (Queensland), CIET (ACT) , and CIET (South Australia) planned action for the coming months at the National East Timor Activists Conference on July 23-24.

The Conference commended the Australian Labor Party Perth Conference decision on East Timor, but expressed concern that Mr EG Whitlam still held the shadow Foreign Affairs portfolio, despite the fact that he was in a minority of one in voting against the resolution,and that he had deliberately distorted the facts on East Timor.

The conference supported the proposed independent inquiry of the Australian Journalists Association into the death of Australian journalists in East Timor and decided to approach the AJA, churches etc. on possible action on October 16, the anniversary of their murder. Nationwide demonstrations will be held on December 7, the second anniversary of the fullscale invasion of East Timor. Other actions are planned around Indonesian Independence Day (August 17),and to celebrate the founding of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (Nov. 28). A mass lobby will also be held at the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Congress in Sydney on September 12 to 16.

Other decisions of the Conference will be published in East Timor News No. 13.